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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



February 2015

Release Date: March 6, 2015

Prepared by Staff of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

202-691-6555

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Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2015

Total Nonfarm + 295,000
Total Private + 288,000

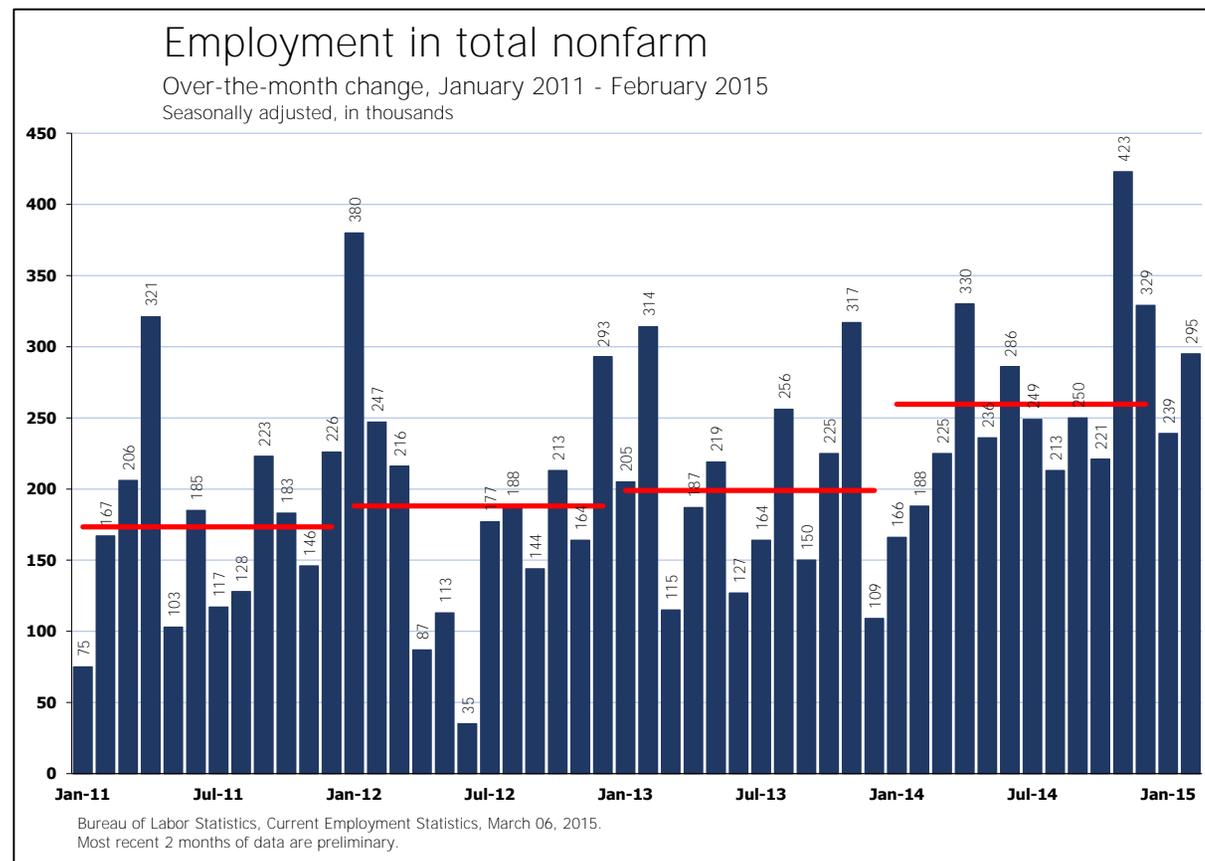
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 295,000 in February. Over the prior 12 months, nonfarm employment grew by an average 266,000 per month. In February, food services and drinking places, professional and business services, construction, health care, and transportation and warehousing added jobs. Employment in mining fell over the month.

The employment change for January revised down from +257,000 to +239,000, and the employment change for December held at +329,000. Incorporating revisions, employment has increased by an average 288,000 per month over the past 3 months.

Average hourly earnings of all private-sector employees rose by 3 cents in February. Over the year, hourly earnings are up 2.0 percent. In February, average weekly hours held at 34.6 hours for the 5th month in a row.

+ 66,000 Leisure and hospitality

Employment rose in leisure and hospitality in February, with food services and drinking places accounting for 59,000 of the job gain. Over the past 12 months, food services and drinking places has added 450,000 payroll jobs.



+ 51,000 Professional and business services

Employment in professional and technical services rose by 32,000 in February. Within this industry, employment continued to trend up in management and technical consulting services (+7,000), computer systems design

and related services (+5,000), and architectural and engineering services (+5,000).

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2015

+ 29,000 Construction

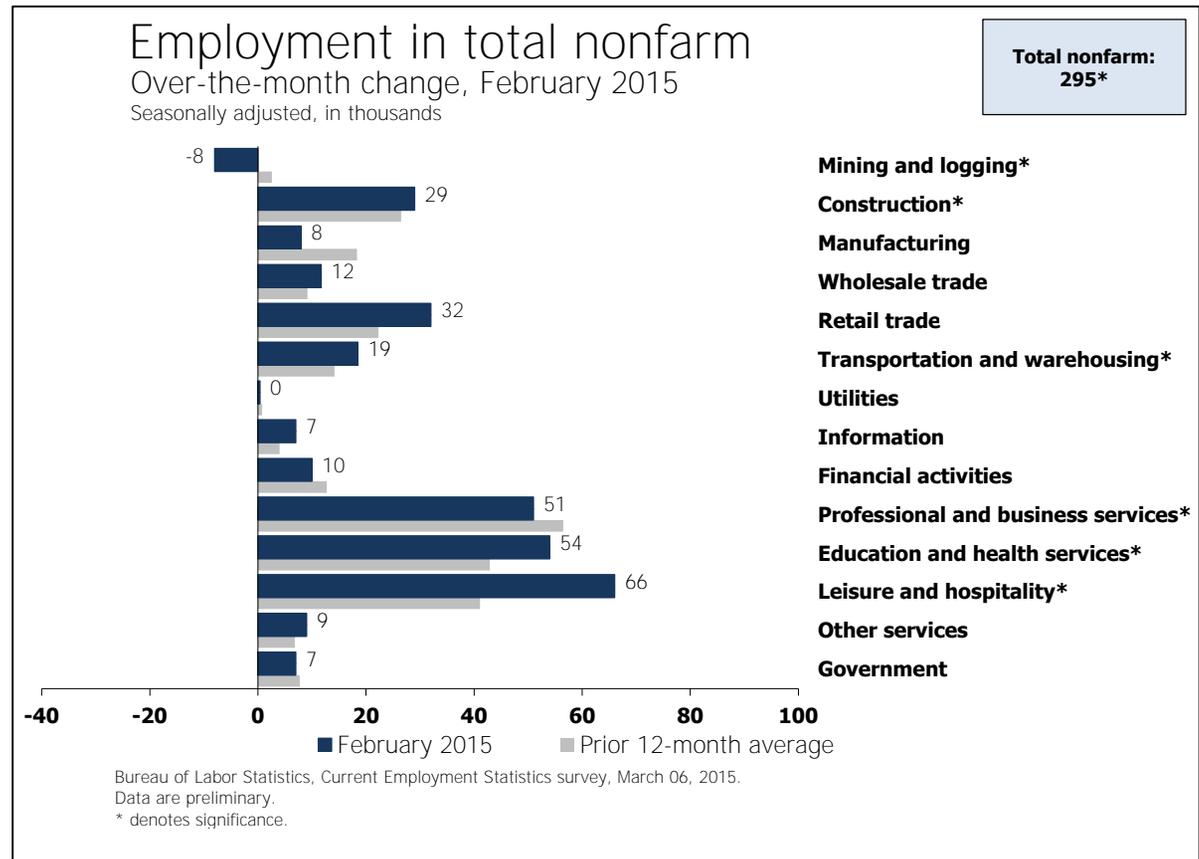
In February, construction added 29,000 jobs. Job growth was concentrated within specialty trade contractors, with employment continuing to trend up in residential specialty trades (+17,000) and nonresidential specialty trades (+10,000). Over the past 12 months, construction has added 321,000 jobs.

+ 54,000 Education and health services

In February, health care providers added 24,000 jobs. Employment rose in ambulatory health care services (+20,000) and in hospitals (+9,000). Employment in nursing and residential care facilities edged down over the month (-5,000). Health care employment had expanded by an average of 29,000 per month over the prior 12 months.

+ 19,000 Transportation and warehousing

Transportation and warehousing added 19,000 jobs in February. Most of the gains were in couriers and messengers, which added 12,000 jobs over the month.



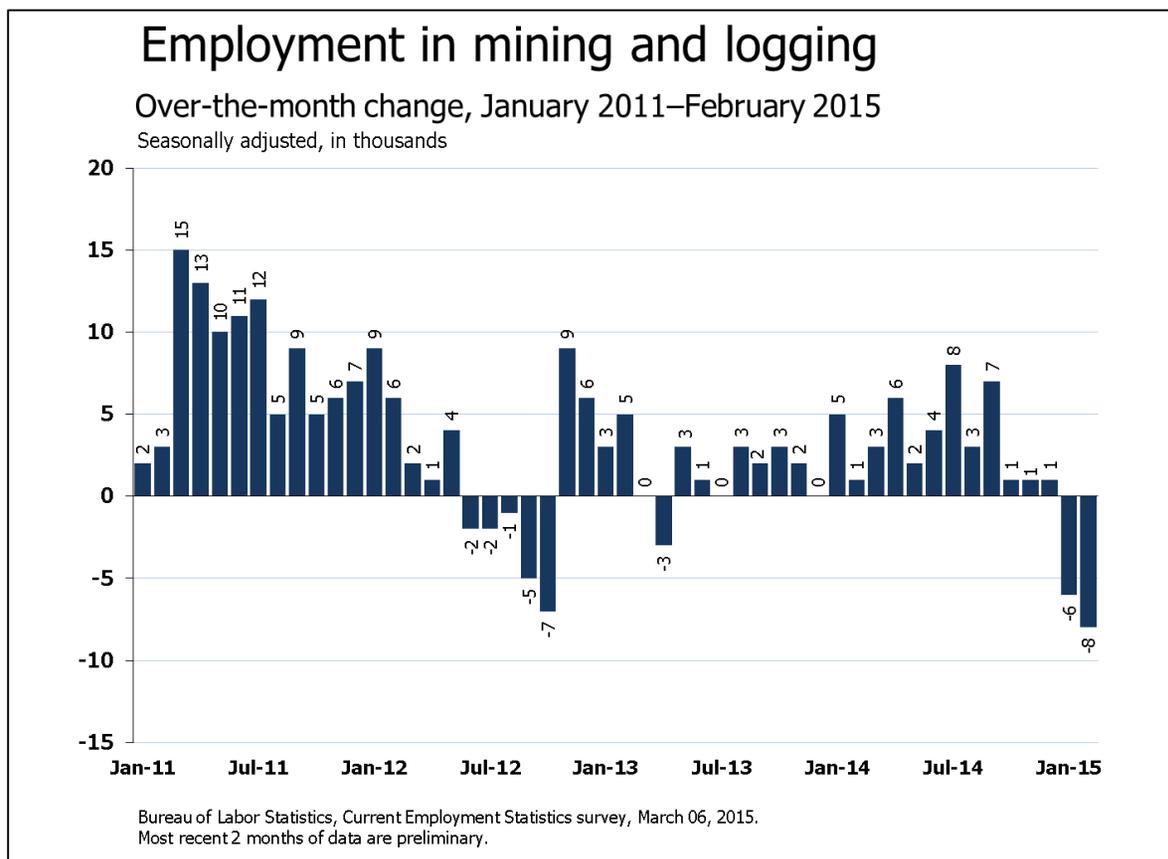
- 8,000 Mining and logging

Employment in mining fell by 9,000 in February. Job losses were concentrated in support activities for mining (-7,000). So far this year, the mining industry has lost 15,000 jobs, and 11,000 of the losses have come in support activities for mining.

+8,000 Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment changed little in February. Within nondurable goods, employment in petroleum and coal products fell by 6,000, largely due to a strike.

Mining & Logging



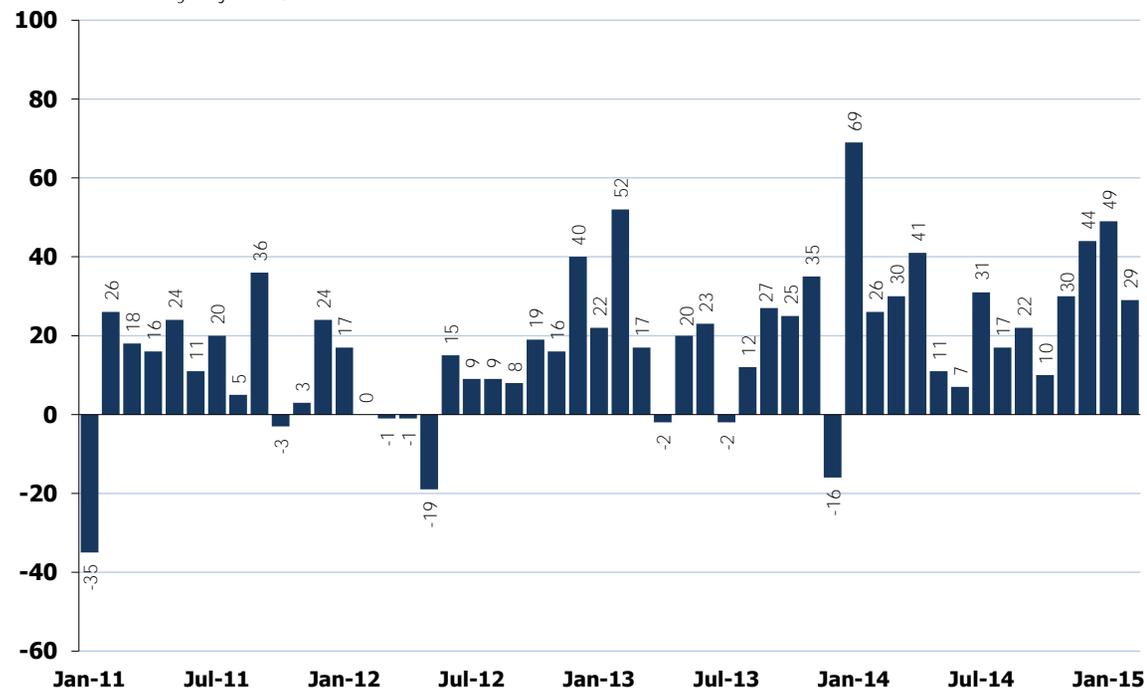
Mining and logging experienced an employment decline of 8,000 in February. Support activities for mining experienced a significant employment loss of 7,000.

Construction

Employment in construction

Over-the-month change, January 2011–February 2015

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

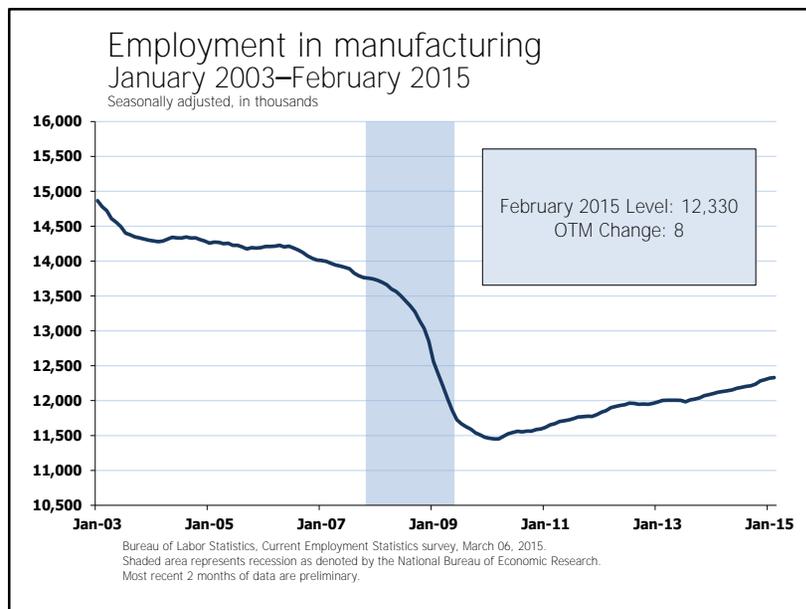


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 06, 2015.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

Construction added 29,000 jobs over the month. Over the year, employment has risen by 321,000.

In February, residential specialty trade contractors led growth in construction employment by adding a significant 17,000 jobs; this gain was greater than its prior 12-month average change (+9,000).

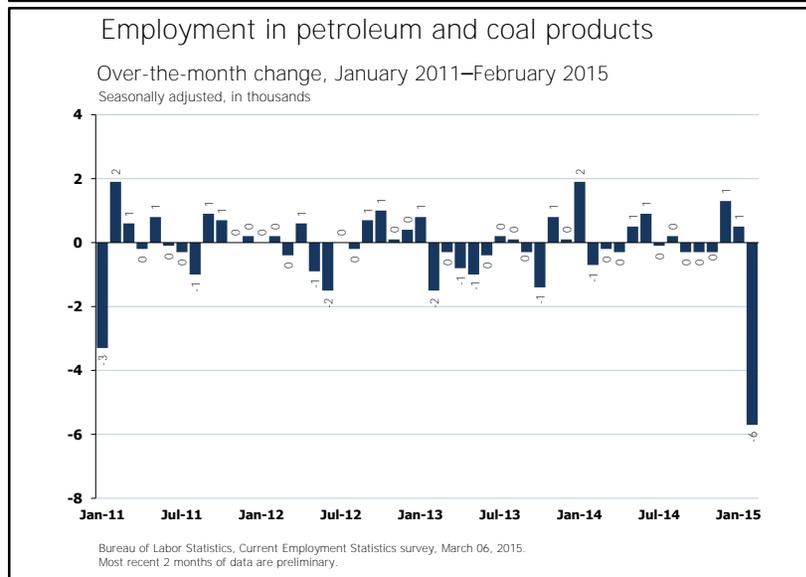
Manufacturing



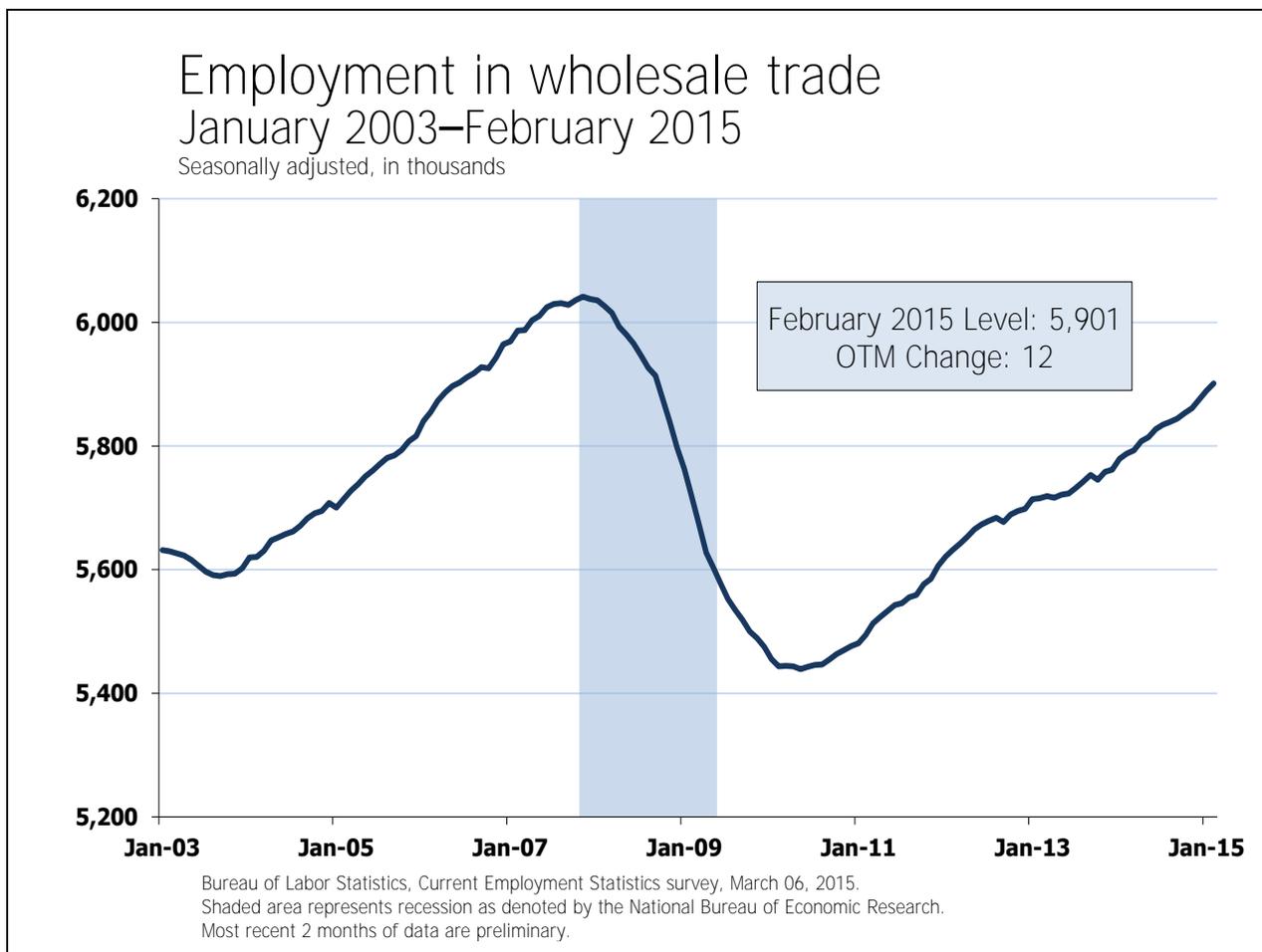
Manufacturing employment changed little in February (+8,000). Durable goods employment edged up by 11,000, with electronic instruments manufacturing adding 2,000 jobs. Within nondurable goods, petroleum and coal products manufacturing shed 6,000 jobs in February, due primarily to a strike within the industry.

The 1-month diffusion index rose to 64.4 in February from 61.3 in January. The diffusion index measures the dispersion of employment change in manufacturing, with a value above 50 indicating that more manufacturing industries are adding jobs than losing them.

In February, average weekly hours for all employees in manufacturing was unchanged at 41.0 hours, and average weekly hours for production employees edged down 0.1 hour to 42.0 hours.

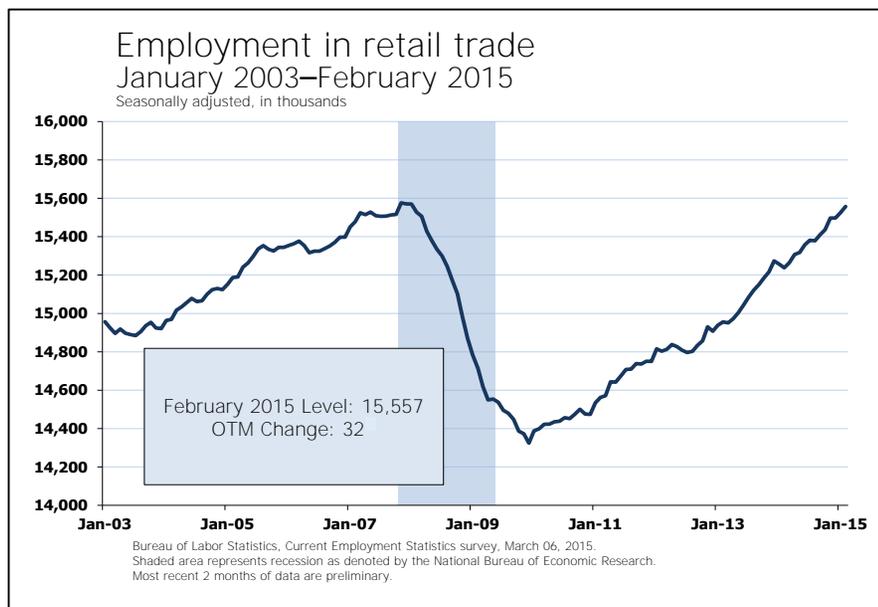


Wholesale Trade



Employment in wholesale trade continued to trend up in February (+12,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 113,000 jobs.

Retail Trade



Employment in retail trade continued to trend up in February (+32,000). Over the past 12 months, the industry has added 319,000 jobs, bringing the February 2015 employment level to 19,000 jobs shy of its November 2007 peak.

The seasonally adjusted employment gain in February stems from a smaller-than-usual not seasonally adjusted holiday layoff. For the retail industries that typically display holiday seasonal movements, the not seasonally adjusted holiday layoff in February 2015 was slightly smaller than the average February layoff for the prior 5 years. This follows a holiday buildup (October through December, 2014) that was weaker than the same period in 2013 but larger than the prior 5-year average buildup.

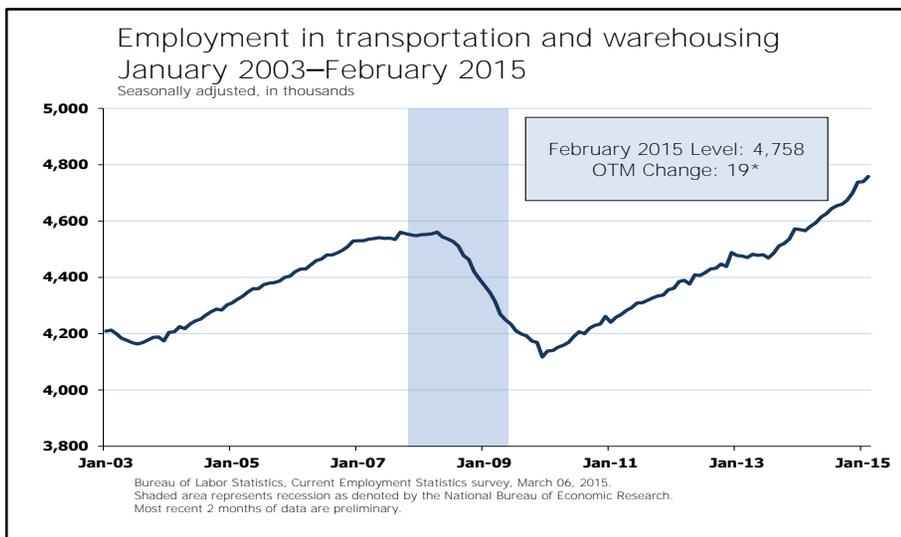
RETAIL TRADE¹ Holiday Season Employment Buildup and Layoff (Not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

YEAR	HOLIDAY BUILDUP (OCT. THROUGH DEC.)	JAN. OVER THE MONTH CHANGE	FEB. OVER THE MONTH CHANGE	TOTAL LAYOFF	LAYOFF AS % OF BUILDUP
2009-2010	555.3	-487.6*	-154.9	-642.5	-116%
2010-2011	634.2	-477.1	-166.3	-643.4	-101%
2011-2012	667.9	-486.3	-219.7*	-706.0	-106%
2012-2013	697.7	-535.4	-204.1*	-739.5	-106%
2013-2014	760.0	-583.5*	-223.2	-806.7	-106%
Average	663.0	-514.0	-193.6	-707.6	-107%
2014-2015	719.7	-561.4*	-183.9	-745.3	-104%

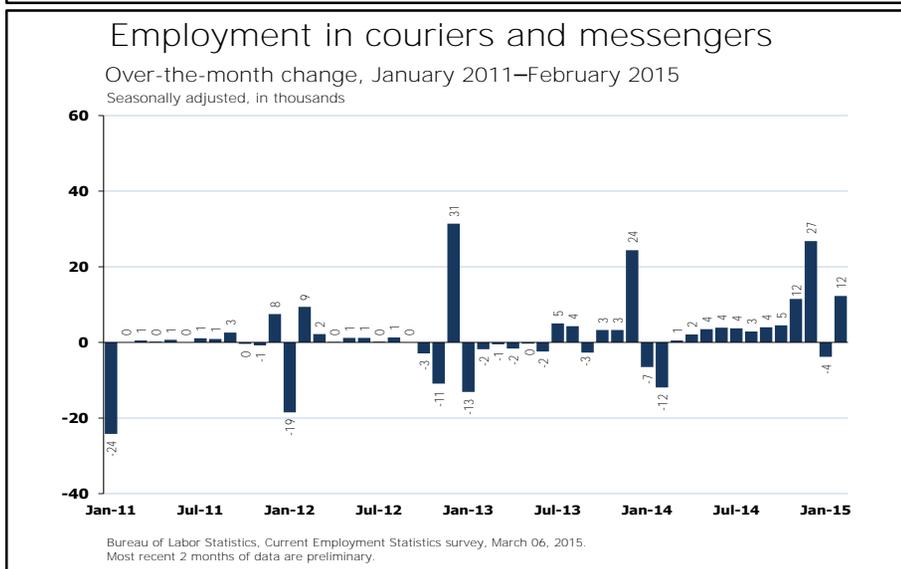
¹Includes employment only from furniture and home furnishings stores, electronics and appliance stores, other specialty food stores, health and personal care stores, clothing and clothing accessories stores, sporting goods, hobby, book, and music stores, general merchandise stores, miscellaneous store retailers, and electronic shopping and mail-order houses.

*Indicates 5 weeks between weeks of the 12th for the current and prior month; there are 4 weeks when not annotated. The CES reference period is the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Seasonal movements can differ depending on the number of weeks between surveys.

Transportation and Warehousing

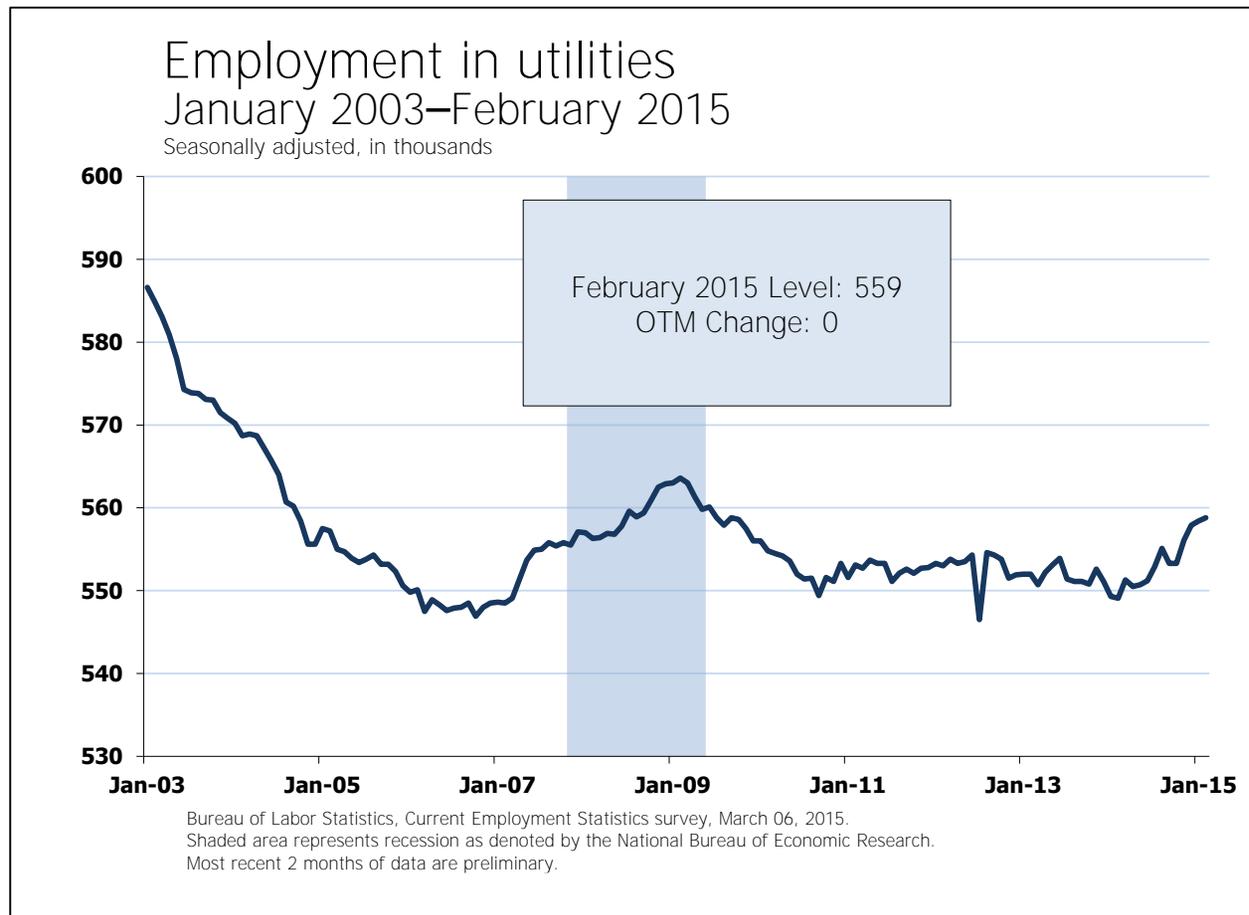


Transportation and warehousing employment increased by 19,000 in February, bringing the 12-month net job gain to 192,000. Most of the gain in February was attributed to couriers and messengers, which added 12,000 jobs. Over the last 12 months, couriers and messengers accounted for slightly more than one-third of the jobs added within transportation and warehousing, despite accounting for only 13.1 percent of the industry's February 2015 employment level.

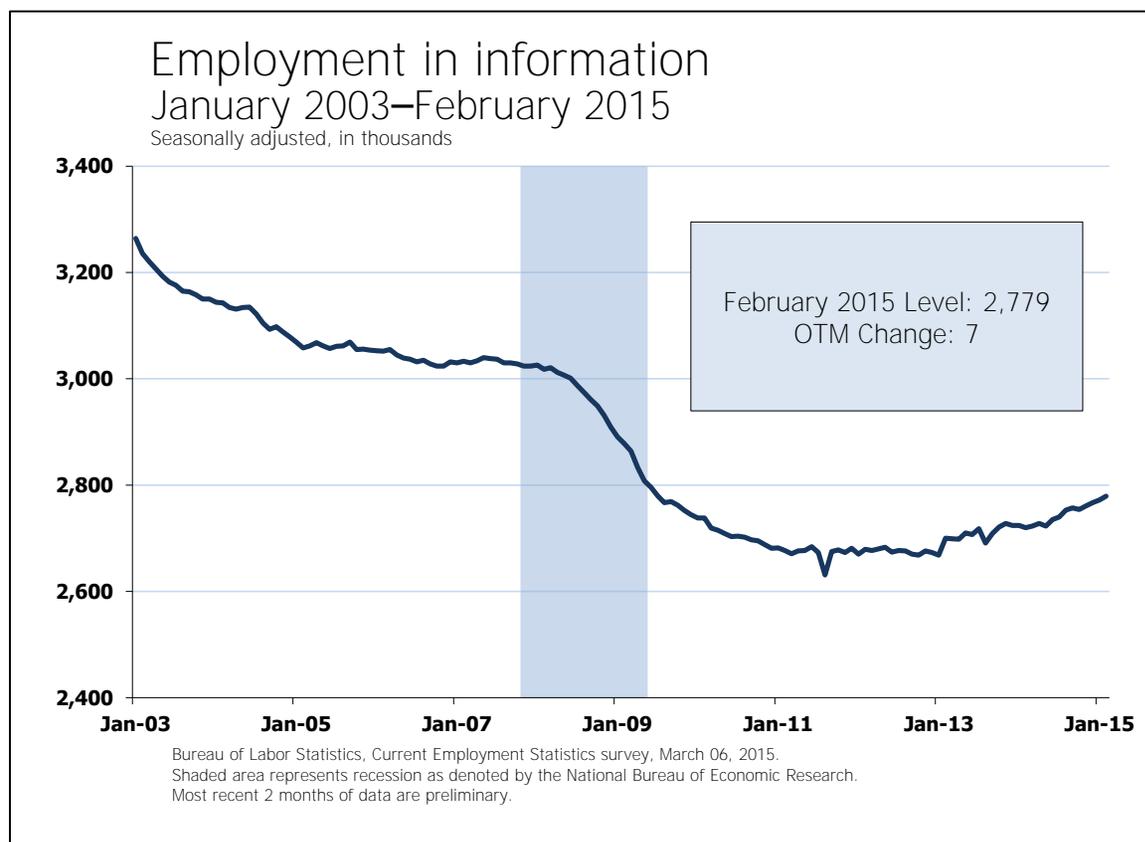


Utilities

Utilities employment was essentially unchanged in February.

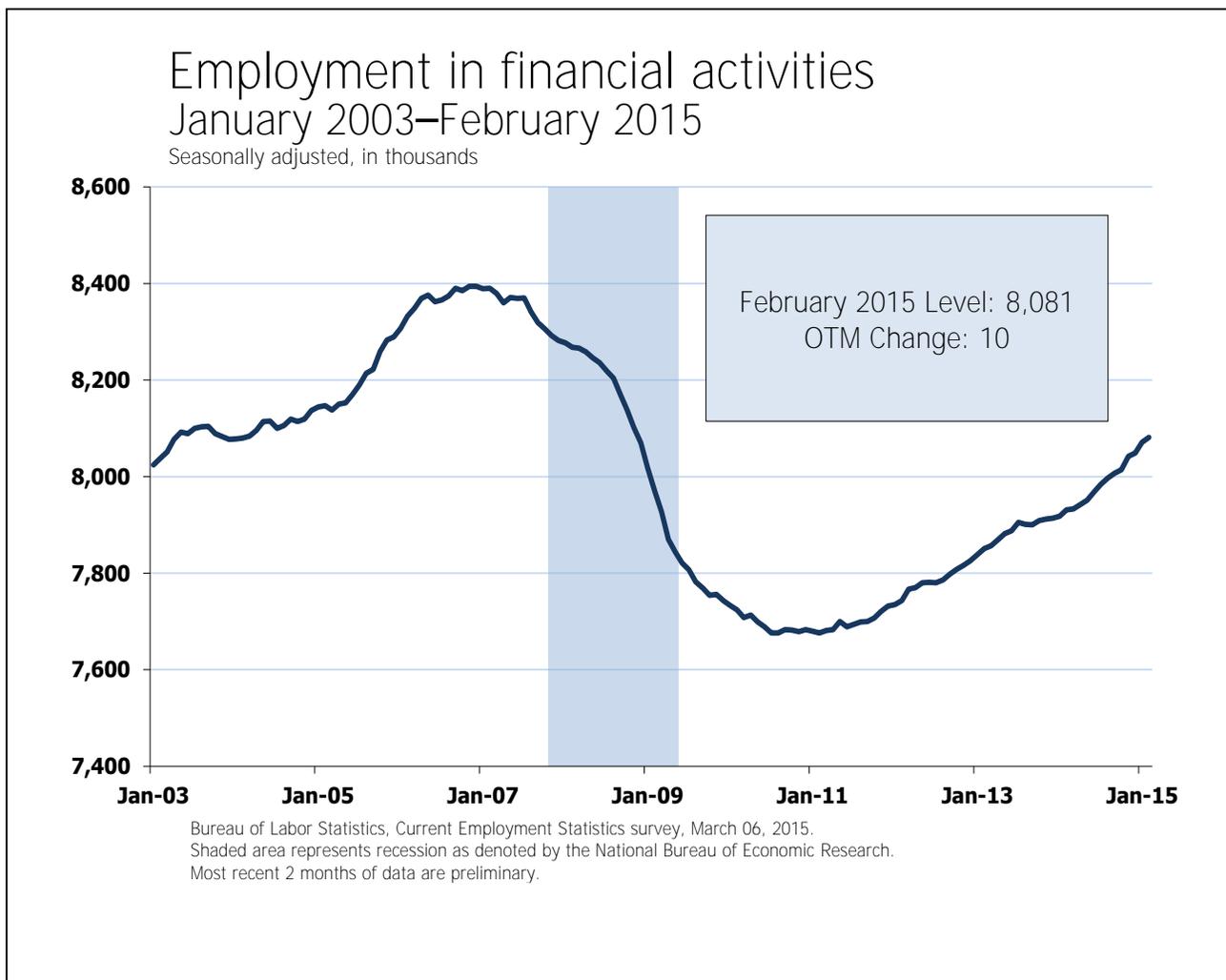


Information



Information employment changed little in February (+7,000). Within the sector, employment edged up in motion picture and sound recording industries (+8,000).

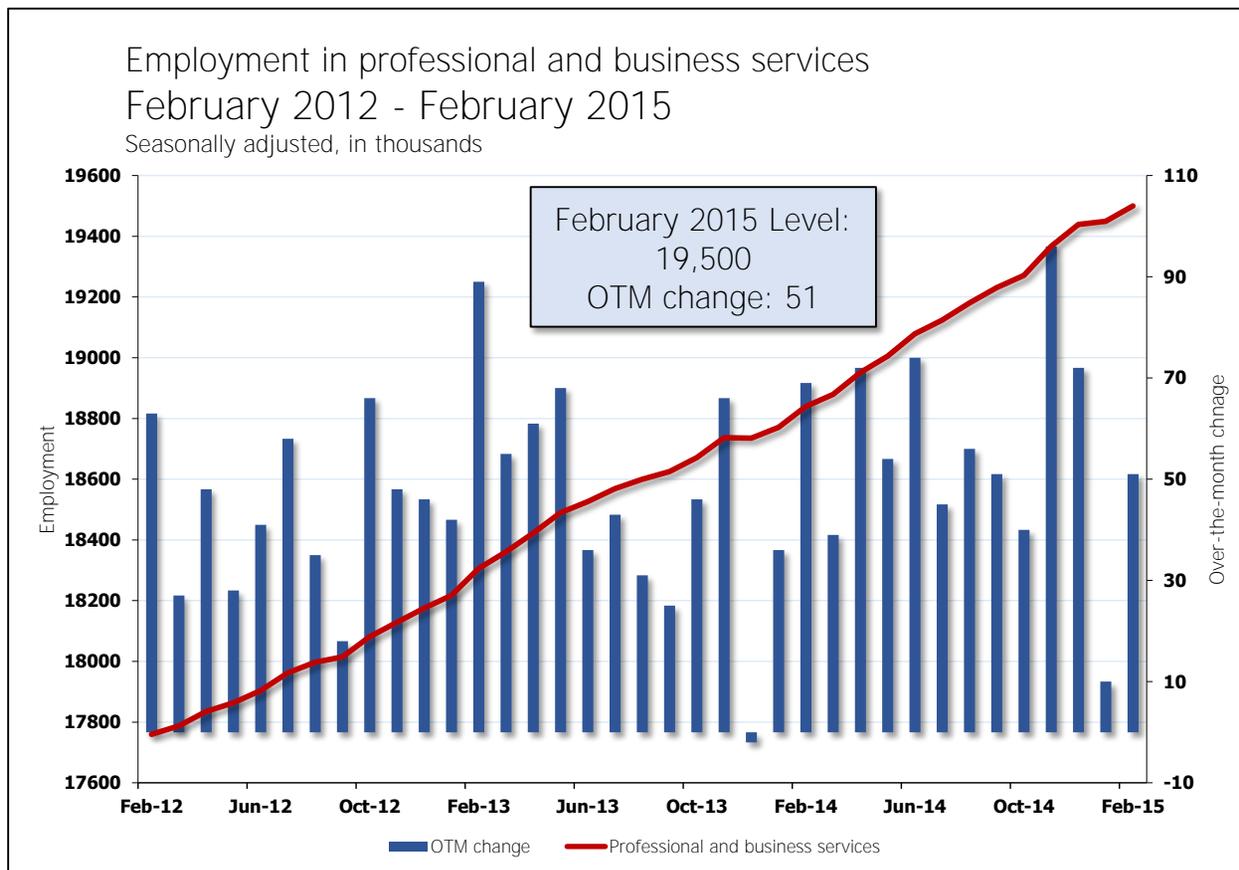
Financial Activities



Employment in financial activities edged up (+10,000) in February, in line with its prior 12-month average (+13,000).

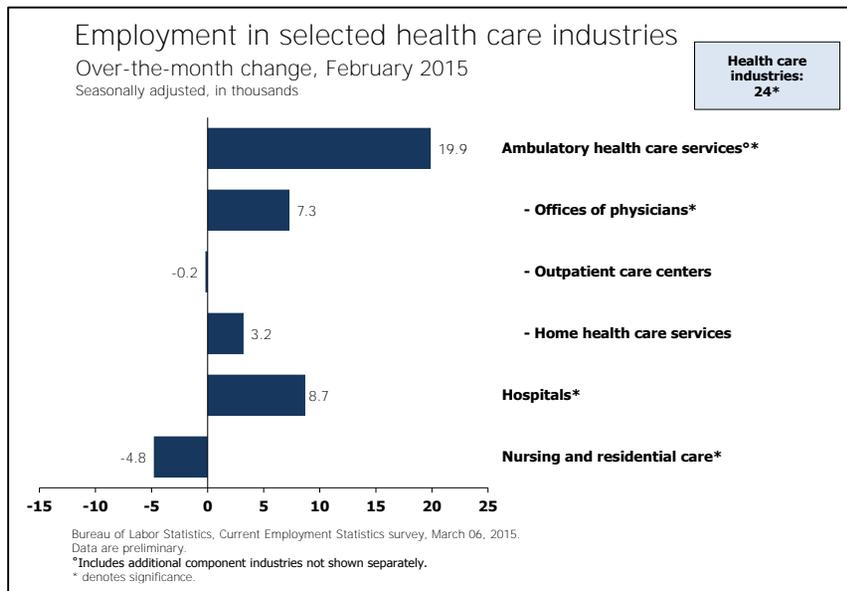
Since February 2011, financial activities has recovered 56 percent of the 718,000 jobs lost in its last peak-to-trough period (December 2006 to February 2011).

Professional and Business Services



Employment in professional and business services increased by 51,000 in February. The majority of the gain occurred in professional and technical services, which added 32,000 jobs, as all of its component industries trended upward. Employment in administrative and waste services changed little in February (+16,000), largely due to weakness in temporary help services (-8,000).

Private Education and Health Services



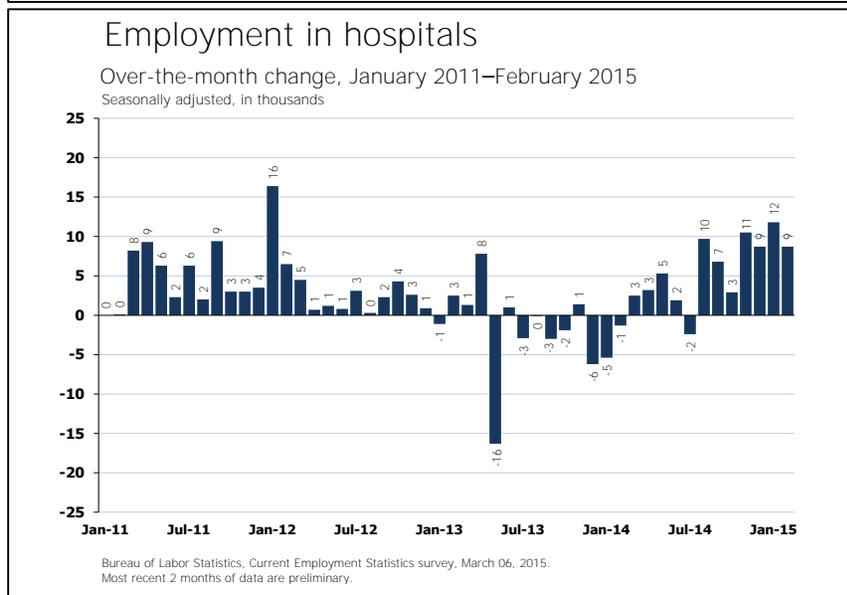
In February, private education and health services employment increased by 54,000. Within the industry, health care added 24,000 jobs, while social assistance employment continued to trend up (+9,000).

NAICS 621 – Ambulatory health care services

Ambulatory health care services added 20,000 jobs in February. Within the industry, employment in offices of physicians (+7,000) and home health care services (+3,000) continued to trend up.

NAICS 622 – Hospitals

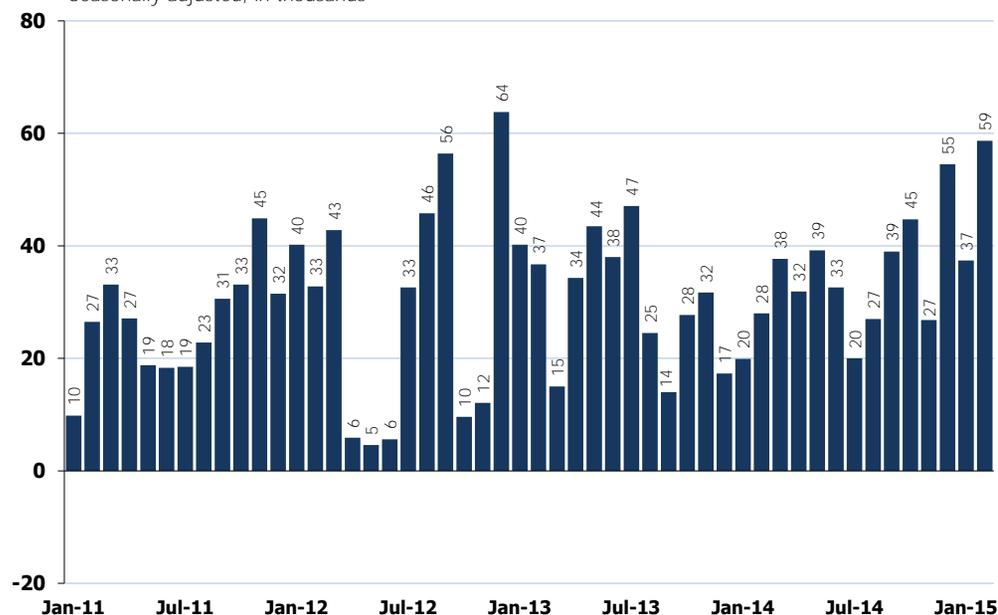
Hospitals continued to add jobs in February (+9,000). Employment in the industry has grown by 70,000 since reaching a trough in February 2014.



Leisure and Hospitality

Employment in food services and drinking places Over-the-month change, January 2011–February 2015

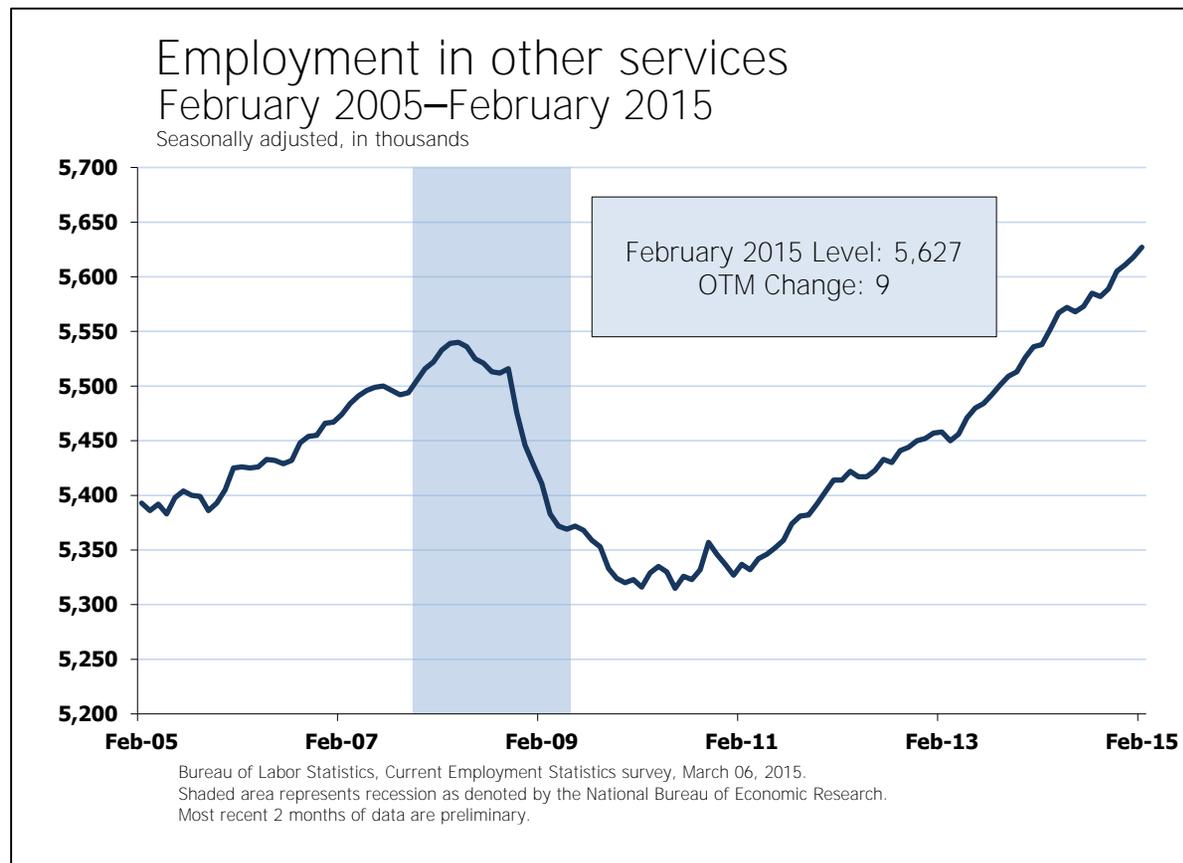
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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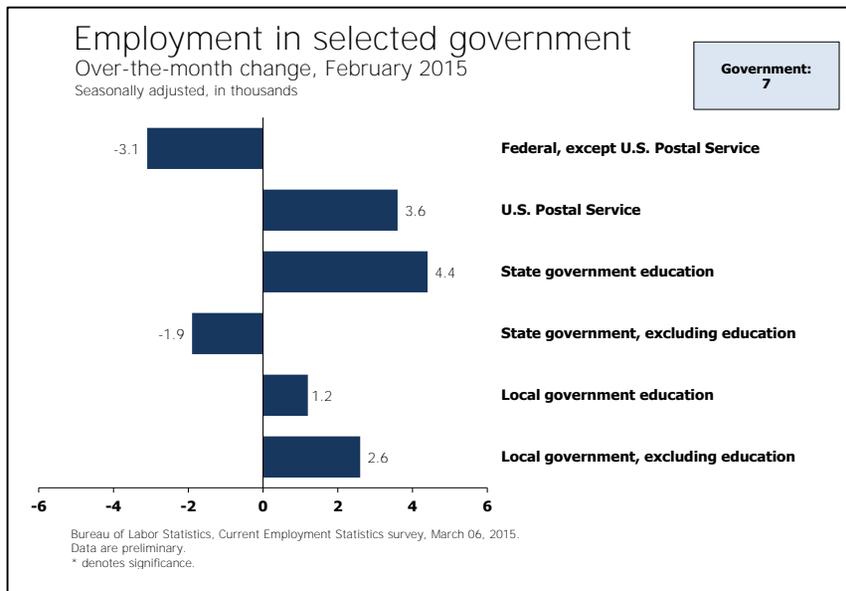
Leisure and hospitality gained 66,000 jobs in February. Food services and drinking places added 59,000 jobs. Over the past 12 months, food services has added 450,000 jobs.

Other Services



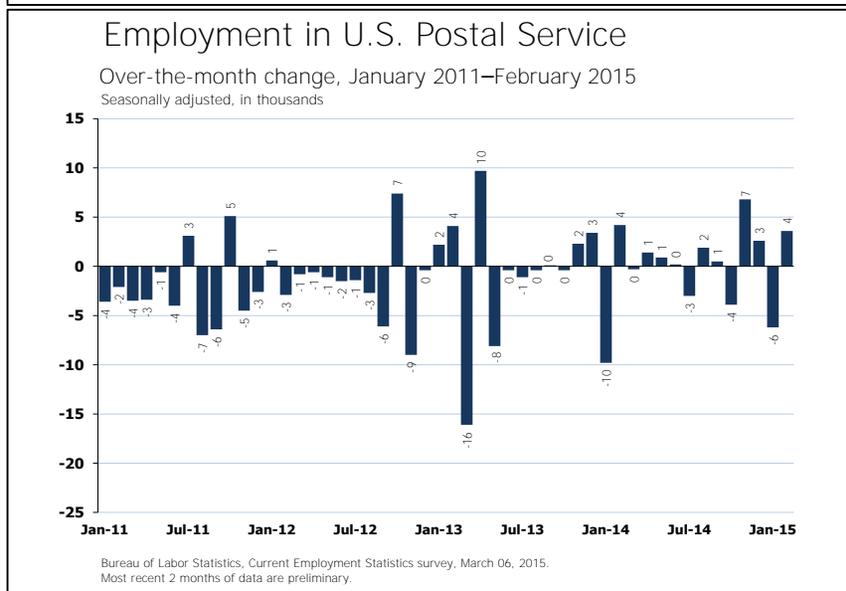
Within other services, employment rose by 8,000 in repair and maintenance services in February.

Government



Government employment changed little in February (+7,000). Since reaching an employment trough in January 2014, government has added 100,000 jobs, with the majority of the gain occurring in local government (+71,000).

In February, the U.S. Postal Service added 4,000 jobs, following a job loss of 6,000 in January. Employment in the industry has changed little, on net, over the past 12 months.





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